



Cal EMA

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) was established as part of the Governor's Office in 2009 – created by Assembly Bill 38 (Nava), which merged the duties, powers, purposes, and responsibilities of the former Governor's Office of Emergency Services with those of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security

Cal EMA is responsible for the coordination of overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The Agency is responsible for assuring the state's readiness to respond to and recover from all hazards - natural, manmade, war-caused emergencies and disasters - and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation efforts.

During major emergencies, Cal EMA will:

- Call upon state and local government agencies, based on their specialized capabilities and expertise, to help provide support.
- Call on its own response resources to assist local government. For example: Cal EMA has communications vans, portable satellite units, caches of specialized equipment, principally for use by local law enforcement agencies, and Cal EMA fire engines stationed with fire districts at strategic locations throughout the state available for dispatch as needed.
- Coordinate the statewide Fire, Law Enforcement, and Telecommunications Mutual Aid Systems.
- Through the Fire and Rescue Branch, coordinate missions for the state's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force to rescue those trapped by collapsed structures or are in other high risk situations.

- Through its Law Enforcement Branch's Search and Rescue Program, coordinate search and rescue missions to locate individuals reported missing in the mountains, wilderness, or elsewhere.

When emergencies exceed the capabilities of local resources, Cal EMA activates the State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento and the Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs) in impacted areas to receive and process local requests for assistance.

Cal EMA staff members are on call 24 hours a day to respond to any state or local emergency needs. The Cal EMA Warning Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. From this center, warning controllers speak with county offices of emergency services and the National Warning Center in Berryville, Virginia on a daily basis.

Cal EMA also maintains a 24-hour toll-free toxic release hotline, and relays spill reports to a number of other state and federal response and regulatory agencies, as well as local governments.

As the "grantee" for federal disaster assistance, principally from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Cal EMA helps local governments assess damages and assists them with federal and state grant and loan applications and administers grant funding accordingly to affected areas to help repair damaged public property.

Cal EMA maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters.

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Cal EMA assists local governments and other state agencies in developing their own emergency preparedness and response plans, in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the State Emergency Plan, for earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous material incidents, nuclear power plant emergencies, dam breaks, and acts of terrorism.

Cal EMA's Training and Exercise (T&E) Division is responsible for oversight of homeland security grant funds for training and exercises to enhance California's readiness to deter, prevent, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of terrorist attacks and natural catastrophic disasters. Additionally, the division provides leadership and program management through the facilitation of training and terrorism prevention and preparedness exercise programs enhancing State and local government capabilities.

The T & E Division has subject matter experts from the eleven (11) core disciplines involved with emergency response, creating a multi-agency, multi-discipline statewide training and exercise program.

Cal EMA also provides search and rescue task force training for local fire personnel, governments and volunteers. Cal EMA's training arm, the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) in San Luis Obispo, provides training programs for city, county, and state emergency services personnel on the latest techniques in disaster planning, response, recovery and management.

In addition, Cal EMA manages annual public awareness campaigns to help California residents become better prepared for emergencies.

Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Governor

Matthew Bettenhausen,
Secretary, Cal EMA